

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Acting Chairperson
Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND
HIGHER EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 8, 2019
2:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILL NO. 261
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairpersons Gabbard and Kim and Members of the Committees:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 261, which appropriates funds for the University of Hawaii GoFarm program. The Department supports this bill provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

The Department supports the efforts of the UH GoFarm program as it seeks to develop farmers to be both not only productive with crop production but also savvy with a business mindset. GoFarm provides important opportunities to individuals that are seeking to enter the agricultural workforce. With the right training and education, a GoFarm graduate has a high probability of impacting the Hawaii's agricultural workforce as a successful farmer. GoFarm runs off of soft money year in and year out and deserves the ability to function with consistent resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



SB-261

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 11:27:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Autumn Ness	Testifying for Hawai'i Center for Food Safety	Support	No

Comments:



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHER EDUCATION
Friday, February 8, 2019 — 2:30 p.m. — Room 224

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 261, Relating to Agriculture

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Murray Clay and I am Managing Partner of Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and better manage waste and fresh water resources. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

Ulupono strongly supports SB 261, which appropriates funds for the GoFarm Hawai'i (GFH) program, because it aligns with our goal to increase local food production.

Since 2013, Ulupono has provided \$250,000 in grant funding to GFH for infrastructure and development of operations on Hawai'i Island, Maui, O'ahu, and Kaua'i. With funding from Ulupono and others, we are excited about the growth of the GFH training program.

Hawai'i has many small farmers. According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, 88 percent (6,171) of Hawai'i's 7,000 farmers made under \$50,000 in farm sales. In addition, the average age of a Hawai'i farmer is over 60 years old and obtaining quality labor is a consistent challenge for many farm operators. Therefore, we need to encourage more people of all ages to develop business skill sets and to apply that knowledge into agriculture as an economically viable career path.

We appreciate that GFH has developed a broad spectrum of classes designed for those with an interest in agriculture. GFH offers the most comprehensive new farmer training program in Hawai'i. The program has started its 27th cohort and has graduated almost 300 students thus far.

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

Impacts of the GFH program:

STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND METRICS

Year (Based on AgSchool Start Date)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
AgSchool Enrolled/ Graduated	36 / 31	68 / 54	61 / 56	47 / 47	72 / 70	60 / 39 ¹	343/297
AgPro Enrolled/ Graduated	22 / 19	25 / 24	16 / 12	30 / 27	29 / 28	25 / 0 ¹	115/82
Revenues and Farming Activity on GoFarm Hawai'i land							
Production, dollars	\$3,500	\$17,500	\$45,000	\$81,379	\$104,239	\$125,366	\$376,984
Production, pounds ⁴	1,010	4,985	12,855	18,973	34,746	41,789	114,358
Acres farmed by graduates				3.4	5.7	7.8	n/a
Number of farmers in AgIncubator (independent businesses operating on GoFarm Hawai'i land)				15	19	31	n/a
Average Age of Participant	41						
Revenues and Farming Activity on non-GoFarm Hawai'i land ²							
Production, dollars					\$344,495 ³	⁵	
Production, pounds ⁴					114,832		
Acres farmed by graduates					76		
Farming or employed in agriculture					37		

¹ Seventeen additional enrolled in AgSchool; 25 still enrolled in AgPro

² Based on survey taken at 2018 Alumni Conference.

³ Twenty-two graduates reported their annual gross revenues.

⁴ Based on reported average sales price of \$3/pound.

⁵ 2018 data will be collected at the next alumni conference event targeted for mid-2019.

The following is based on AgSchool and AgPro exit surveys over the past 3 years:

62 Trainees are working for themselves/started a business (47% of 131 Trainees)

28 Trainees are working for others in agriculture (21% of 131 Trainees)

TOTAL: 90 Working in Agriculture Industry (69% of Trainees)

AgSchool 179 Enrolled 17 Current 156 Graduated	Of 156: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AgPro – 84 (54%) • Started a Farm – 17 (11%) • Working in Ag – 23 (15%) • Other (later; home garden; etc.) – 32 (21%) 	AgPro 84 Enrolled 25 Current 55 Graduated	Of 55: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started a Farm on GFH land (AgIncubator) – 27 (49%) • Started a Farm off GFH land – 18 (33%) • Working in Ag – 5 (9%) • Other (later; home garden; etc.) – 5 (9%)
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Number of Participants by Zip Code

96701	15	96727	3	96754	5	96782	2	96816	22
96703	3	96728	2	96755	2	96783	3	96817	9
96705	1	96730	4	96756	1	96784	1	96819	9
96706	5	96732	3	96759	1	96786	4	96821	8
96707	12	96734	26	96760	1	96789	15	96822	15
96708	4	96740	1	96762	1	96791	13	96825	7
96710	1	96741	6	96764	2	96792	10	96826	9
96712	10	96743	4	96765	1	96793	3	96915	1
96716	1	96744	21	96766	4	96794	1	97634	1
96717	6	96746	6	96768	7	96795	10	97654	2
96719	2	96749	2	96773	1	96797	6		
96720	4	96752	1	96776	1	96813	14		
96725	1	96753	6	96778	1	96815	7		

Participants by Race and Gender

Race		Mixture (incl. NH)	6%	Gender	
African American	2%	Native Hawaiian	20%	Male	53%
Asian American	14%	Other Indigenous Group	1%	Female	47%
Hispanic	2%	Pacific Islander	2%		
Mixture (not incl. NH)	19%	White	34%		

As Hawai'i's local food issues become increasingly complex and challenging, organizations need additional resources and support to address and overcome them. We appreciate these committees' efforts to look at policies that support local food production.

We believe that through collaboration, we can help produce more local food and support an economically robust homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Murray Clay
Managing Partner



67-332 Kaiea Pl.
Waialua, HI 96791-9501
808-383-4481
www.NSEVP.org

February 6, 2019

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

SUBJECT: Support for SB261 – GoFarm Hawaii Program (Date/Time of Hearing: 2/8/19 at 2:30pm)

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, & members of the committees,

On behalf of the North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership (EVP), I would like to extend our full support of SB 261, which will appropriate funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program.

The North Shore EVP was formed in 2015 as a result of a comprehensive, community-based economic analysis that confirmed agriculture as a primary economic driver in the North Shore and identified the need for a food hub to fill serious gaps in the food supply chain of the region. Our non-profit organization worked with community leaders to develop realistic strategic plans that will bring our vision of economic vitality to fruition. Currently, our major projects include 1) statewide expansion of our GropupGAP (Good Agricultural Practices) farmer training program and 2) developing a food hub on the North Shore of Oahu.

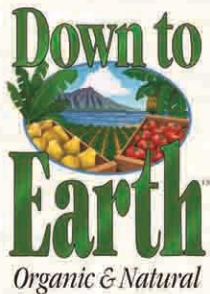
GoFarm Hawaii graduates and clients have been members of our GroupGap program, showing their dedication to quality and food safety, looking to increase production and sales, and seeking access to larger markets and more sales. The GoFarm Hawaii's Waialua farm is currently participating in North Shore EVP's second GroupGap cohort. Obtaining certification will allow their incubator participants the opportunity to be GroupGap certified. It also familiarizes students with the certification requirements and process.

GoFarm Hawaii is developing commercial farmers on the North Shore and across the state that are prepared to supply food for local communities. We look forward to these farmers actively contributing to sustainable agriculture in their communities. We will continue to work together in areas of mutual interest especially in areas where we can leverage each other's expertise in support of Hawai'i agriculture. The North Shore EVP strongly supports this measure that will ensure that the GoFarm Hawaii program continues its work to support local farmers.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kelly
President & CEO
North Shore EVP

Love Life!



Corporate Office
P.O. Box 1166
Kailua, HI 96734
Phone: (808) 484-5890
Fax: (808) 484-5896
corporate@downtoearth.org

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Fax: (808) 675-2323
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Kakaako
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Maui Location

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Kahului, HI 96732
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kahului@downtoearth.org

SB 261 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE
Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment
February 8, 2019, 2:30pm State Capitol

Aloha Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair, Sen. Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair, and
Committee Members,

Down to Earth Organic and Natural testifies in support of SB 261.

Down to Earth *Organic and Natural* has six locations on Oahu and Maui. Since we
opened in 1977, we have supported healthy lifestyles and preservation of the
environment by selling local, fresh, organic and natural food, and by promoting a
vegetarian lifestyle.

We are strongly in support of SB 261 and encouraging local, sustainable food
production. We are hopeful that GoFarm will continue to succeed in their efforts to
enhance Hawaii's food security and economy by offering knowledge, experience, and
support for new farmers in a manner that encourages sustainability. We are
especially supportive of GoFarm's work to encourage organic, regenerative, and
sustainable agriculture in Hawaii via the next generation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Alison Riggs
Public Policy & Government Relations Manager
Down to Earth

2525 S. King St., Suite 309
Honolulu, HI 96826

Phone (808) 824-3240
Fax (808) 951-8283
E-mail: alison.riggs@downtoearth.org



*Farmer owned, 'āina grown –
from our trees to your table.*

February 5, 2019

SUBJECT: Support for SB261 – GoFarm Hawaii Program (Date/Time of Hearing:
2/8/19 at 2:30pm)

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, & members of the committees,

We would like to extend our full support of SB261 that would appropriate funds to the GoFarm Hawai'i program.

As a client of GoFarm Hawai'i, the AgBusiness Team has assisted our organization, the Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative (HUPC), with business planning, financial analysis, project development, and marketing initiatives for multiple businesses. The services offered by the program have provided our management and board with useful tools developed for our unique business operation. The team has always been willing to provide valuable guidance to help our business grow and succeed.

HUPC is a 70 member farmer-owned and -operated business. Over 80% of our membership is comprised of socially disadvantaged minority farmers. Growing a business in Hawai'i is challenging and we greatly appreciate the ongoing support we receive from the GoFarm Hawai'i team. There is no way our business would be where it is today if not for the support services provided by GoFarm Hawai'i.

In conclusion, we enthusiastically encourage you to consider supporting this valuable and much needed program! Please contact me directly should you have any questions about our unyielding support for GoFarm Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Dana Shapiro
Manager



Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative

P.O. Box 1203, Captain Cook, Hawai'i 96704 | 808-238-8869 | eatbreadfruit.com | info@eatbreadfruit.com



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS		DIRECTORS		MAILING ADDRESS
John Bickel, President		Melodie Aduja	Ken Farm	P.O. Box 23404 Honolulu Hawaii'i
Alan Burdick, Vice President		Guy Archer	Chuck Huxel	
Marsha Schweitzer, Treasurer		Juliet Begley	Jan Lubin	
96823				
Dylan Armstrong, Secretary		Gloria Borland	Jenny Nomura	

Feb. 6 , 2018

TO: Honorable Chairs Gabbard and Kim & AEN/HRE Committee Members

RE: SB 261 Relating to Agriculture

Support for hearing on Feb. 8

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support SB 261 as it would support the GoFarm program. The University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture developed the GoFarm Hawaii program to provide business consulting and technical assistance to farmers and food manufacturers using locally-grown produce and develop new commercial-scale farmers. We need to move toward food sustainability. We need to expand the 7,000 farms currently in Hawaii to provide more food. This program helps.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel President





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
And

Senate Committee on Higher Education
Friday, February 8, 2019 at 2:30 p.m.

By

Nicholas Comerford

Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno

Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Vice Chancellor for Research

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 261 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Committee on Higher Education:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 261 relating to agriculture and addressing funding for the GoFarm Hawai'i (GFH) program. We respectfully provide the following information to substantiate our position.

Over 85% of farmers in Hawai'i earn less than \$50,000 per year. To increase local food production, support is needed to develop financially viable farming operations. Existing farms must increase yield and new farmers focused on commercial production must be trained in all aspects of successful agribusiness. GFH is able to assist with both.

Started in 2004, GFH's AgBusiness team provides business consulting and support services to local agricultural businesses including farmers and value-added producers. Over the past 3 years, the team has provided one-on-one consulting to an average of 88 companies per year statewide.

The AgBusiness team also provides business education to aspiring and established farmers throughout the state. In 2018 alone, 260 attended training sessions.

GFH currently operates 5 training sites on 4 islands.

Since offering beginning farmer training in 2013, over 300 have been trained in the basics of farming and over 100 have been trained for small-scale commercial agriculture.

Of the 138 graduates in the past 3 years, 49% started their own farm business and 22% started working for other companies in the agricultural industry. This program is clearly meeting the training needs of Hawaiian agriculture.

Program students and graduates produced over 100,000 pounds of food in the last year.

While the program is within CTAHR, it started, and has continued, as a program completely funded by grants from a diverse group of organizations. As past funding sources are no longer available, the CTAHR budget is not able to fund what was a soft-money program through its normal budget. Therefore, this bill was initiated.

There is a need to train new farmers in a cost-effective way. The GFH program, at a reasonable cost to the student, is a type of bootcamp for people interested in learning farming skills; from growing to marketing. The program also, as noted, provides expertise to farmers who request it. With an annual budget projected at \$1.4 million dollars, funds are needed to support this valuable program; and this bill addresses that need. The inevitable outcome of lack of funding is to reduce the program, which works against the state's stated need to train new farmers.

We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



February 5, 2019

SUBJECT: Support for SB261 – GoFarm Hawaii Program (Date/Time of Hearing: 2/8/19 at 2:30pm)

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, & members of the committees,

As an alumni of the GoFarm Hawaii Beginning Farmer Training Program, I would like to extend my strong support for SB261, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program.

As a student of the GoFarm Hawaii program, I learned the production and business skills necessary to become a commercial farmer, gained the confidence to be entrepreneurial, and was provided support to thrive. Since graduating, I was able to qualify for the Kamehameha Schools Mahi'ai Match-up Program, an annual contest that awards an agricultural lease with up to five years of waived rent, and start-up seed money. I currently operate a 5-acre certified organic farm in Waialua which employs 4 individuals.

The GoFarm Hawaii program has positively changed my life, giving me the foundational understanding of agribusiness and a network that I still rely on as I grow my farm operation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rob Barreca". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Rob Barreca
Owner/Operator
Counter Culture Organic Farm and Farm Link Hawaii
rob@counterculturehawaii.com

Hoalahou Farm LLC
440 Iaukea St. Honolulu, HI 96813
Email: holahoufarm@gmail.com

2/6/19

SUBJECT: Support for SB261 – GoFarm Hawaii Program (Date/Time of Hearing:
2/8/19 at 2:30pm)

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, & members of the committees,

As an alumni of the GoFarm Hawaii Program, I would like to extend my strong support for SB 261, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program.

My husband and I started the program back in 2014. We mainly grow Bunlong taro and bananas. We sell taro chips regularly to friends and family and also sell at regular school fairs and community venues. We just recently acquired a 5-year lease for 1 acre in Waimanalo. Without the knowledge and support from the GoFarm program, we would not have been able to start our farm business.

The GoFarm Hawaii program is a much needed and valuable program for the State of Hawaii. The program has given us the knowledge, skills and support for us to continue farming and grow our taro business. Their ongoing support, educational opportunities and network continues to provide a valuable support system for our business and other farmers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support of this Bill.

Sincerely,

Ruvi M. Apa



February 5, 2018

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, and members of the committees,

RE: Support for SB261 – GoFarm Hawai'i Program (Date/Time of Hearing: 2/8/19 at 2:30pm)

On behalf of the The Kohala Center, I would like to extend our full support of SB 261, which will appropriate funds to the GoFarm Hawai'i (GFH) program.

The Kohala Center is an independent, community-based center for research, conservation, and education located on Hawai'i Island. By focusing on the needs of island residents we turn research and ancestral knowledge into action, so that communities in Hawai'i and around the world can thrive – ecologically, economically, culturally, and socially. Our main areas of focus are food, water, place, and people.

Our organization has worked closely with both the GoFarm Hawai'i (GFH) beginning farmer training program and the AgBusiness Team since 2012. Their practical approach to teaching and supporting farmers have increased the number and viability of agricultural businesses throughout the State. The GFH program is the only business development program in the state dedicated to working with and elevating the success of Hawai'i's agricultural entrepreneurs; they are a critical component in Hawai'i's agricultural landscape, providing technical assistance in farmer training, business planning, marketing, production planning, succession planning, and more. GFH has successfully operated their beginning farmer training program at The Kohala Center's Demonstration Farm on Hawai'i Island since 2017 and we are committed to supporting the success and growth of this program on Hawai'i Island and across the state.

The Kohala Center strongly encourages the support of this valuable program.

Sincerely,

Nicole Milne, Ph.D.
Vice President for Programs
Director of Food and Agriculture Initiatives
The Kohala Center

February 7, 2019

SUBJECT: Support for SB261 – GoFarm Hawaii Program (Date/Time of Hearing: 2/8/19 at 2:30pm)

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, & members of the committees,

I am encourage to see concrete interest in funding the GoFarm Hawaii Program. I graduated from the program last year on the Big Island. It proved invaluable for me to get direct field experience and meet with established farmers and agricultural experts. Each Island is unique, and GoFarms Hawaii is the bridge to bring not only basic best farming practices but to network with other farmers, new and old.

It was always a dream of mine and I am sure with many others of being a farmer. I have access to a small 2.5 acre parcel that originally I was going throw money into developing right away, not knowing what I was getting myself into. It was of such value that GoFarms Hawaii stressed detailed planning before even breaking the soil is of such significant importance. I am quite sure I would have been discouraged and ended the farming altogether without the assistance from the staff of GoFarms Hawaii. The program gave me the tools to work things through.

As SB261 states, GoFarms Hawaii is an important outreach program for the emerging small time farming industry. Hawaii is an island society, isolated over two thousand miles from any significant land mass, where food security becomes ever more dire and essential. GoFarms Hawaii has a proven track record. The potential seed money will grow into establishing Hawaii to be self-sufficient if for whatever reasons food imports are curtailed or stalled altogether. Besides, local fresh ripe fruits and vegetables are far better both in nutrition and taste. I would like to extend my strong support for SB261, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program. It is a win-win investment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Yamauchi', written in a cursive style.

Jeff Yamauchi
Hilo Sun Farms

SB-261

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 3:28:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Testifying for Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	Yes

Comments:

February 7, 2019

Support for SB261

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, & members of the committees,

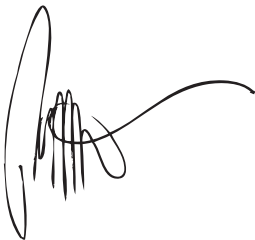
I am testifying in strong support for Senate Bill SB261, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program.

As president and director of Regenerations Botanical Garden, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agricultural education organization, I have had the good fortune of directly overseeing mutually beneficial collaborations with GoFarm Hawaii program's staff here on Kaua'i over the past 4 years. GoFarm's educational, workforce training, and entrepreneurial agribusiness assistance programs play a crucial role in our neighbor island community's efforts to achieve increasing food sovereignty and security, which dovetail into County and State mandates to increase local food production. The range of resources, educational and operational support GoFarm Hawaii provides to its students and alumni are not available from any other vendor on Kaua'i.

SB261 will provide an important component of funding to ensure that the GoFarm Hawaii programs statewide can continue to make their essential impact on the future prosperity and resilience of our islands and their people.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support of this Bill.

Sincerely,



Paul Massey
President, Regenerations Botanical Garden



To: Mike Gabbard, Senate District 20
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 201
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Donna Mercado Kim, Senate District 14
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Russell E. Ruderman, Senate District 2
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 216
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Michelle N. Kidani, Senate District 18
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

From: Jennifer A. Leng
Sweetbreads, LLC
P.O. Box 4594
Honolulu, HI 96812

Subject: **SB261 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

February 6, 2019

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, & members of the AEN/HRE, WAM committees,

Please recognize my strong support for SB 261, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program.

As a current student of the program, I am learning hands-on production and marketing skills, instilling my future business goals and building a local network that can support my future in the agricultural industry. For the duration of the GoFarm Hawaii program, I have not only been able to learn about farming, I am also actively managing a plot of land, marketing and selling products, developing a business plan, and looking closely at the financial viability of specific crops and my business.

After graduating from the program, I plan to start a farm on my own plot of agricultural land but fully intend to continue using the support services that the GoFarm Hawaii program offers.

The GoFarm Hawaii program is a needed and valuable program for the state of Hawaii, especially in regards to our food security. Their ongoing support, educational opportunities, and network are essential as I plan for the future growth of my business.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support of SB 261.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Leng
Sweetbreads, LLC



PO Box 474
Haleiwa HI, 96712
808-228-8865
info@lokoeafarms.com
www.lokoeafarms.com

February 6, 2019

Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Committee on Higher Education

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, & members of the committees,

Please recognize my strong support for SB 261, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program (Date/Time of Hearing: 2/8/19 at 2:30pm). Since graduating from the program in 2016, I started Lokoea Farms, a small family farm that grows a variety of fruit trees on Oahu's North Shore. I sell produce on a weekly basis to local restaurants, grocery stores, and multiple local farm-to-home subscription programs.

GoFarm Hawaii taught me production skills, provided business support, and gave me a network that allows my business to continue growing. I am working on my business full-time, employ one person part time, and am looking to expand my production and staff in 2019. Our gross revenue has gone up from about \$16,031.29 in 2017 to \$45,243.61 in 2018, and we are conservatively aiming for at least \$60,000 this year.

The GoFarm Hawaii program is a needed and valuable program for the state of Hawaii. Their ongoing support, educational opportunities, and network continues to provide a valuable support system for my business.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support of this Bill. If I can be of further assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Noe Neumann
808-228-8865
info@lokoeafarms.com

From: [Janel Yamamoto](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony for SB261; Hearing: 2/8/19 at 2:30pm
Date: Thursday, February 7, 2019 7:19:57 AM

Submitting on behalf of Mahealani Malepeai/Rainbow Farms

From: Mahealani Malepeai [mailto:mmalepeai1@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 7, 2019 12:38 AM
To: janelnoy@hawaii.edu
Subject: Support for GoFarm Hawaii Program SB361

SUBJECT: Support for SB261 – GoFarm Hawaii Program (Date/Time of Hearing: [2/8/19 at 2:30pm](#))

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, & members of the committees,

Please recognize my strong support for SB 261, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program. As a student of the program, I am not only learning hands-on production and marketing skills, I am also growing my new business as a family run Farm. I am about to graduate the Agro portion of the program with just about 1 year of farming under my belt. Without the GoFarm program I would not have been able to building a network that can support my future in the agricultural industry.

Participating in the GoFarm program has had a tremendous impact on the way I view my future and the future I wish for my children. We own a couple of acres of Ag land and applied for the GoFarm program hoping to learn techniques for sustainable living and to grow food for our community. During the program, I developed a deeper understanding how to grow food for my family but the GoFarm program has opened my eyes to the joy and reality of sharing the gift of health with my community while making a livable wage. Not only have I been able to learn about farming, I am actively managing a plot of land, marketing and selling products, developing a business plan, and looking closely at the financial viability of specific crops and my business.

After graduating, I plan to implement the practices I've learned as well as develop my expertise in growing organic cucumbers. I will start to farm on my own land but also hope to continue in the next phase of the GoFarm program as an Incubator for the next 3 years as I refine my skills and continue to develop my market. I will definitely continue using the support services that the program offers.

The GoFarm Hawaii program is a needed and valuable program for the state of Hawaii. Their ongoing support, educational opportunities, and network is essential as I plan for my new business.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support of this Bill.

Mahalo,
Mahealani Malepeai
Rainbow Farms

February 7, 2019

Support for SB261

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, & members of the committees,

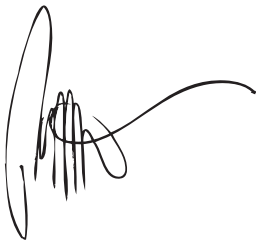
I am testifying in strong support for Senate Bill SB261, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program.

As president and director of Regenerations Botanical Garden, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agricultural education organization, I have had the good fortune of directly overseeing mutually beneficial collaborations with GoFarm Hawaii program's staff here on Kaua'i over the past 4 years. GoFarm's educational, workforce training, and entrepreneurial agribusiness assistance programs play a crucial role in our neighbor island community's efforts to achieve increasing food sovereignty and security, which dovetail into County and State mandates to increase local food production. The range of resources, educational and operational support GoFarm Hawaii provides to its students and alumni are not available from any other vendor on Kaua'i.

SB261 will provide an important component of funding to ensure that the GoFarm Hawaii programs statewide can continue to make their essential impact on the future prosperity and resilience of our islands and their people.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support of this Bill.

Sincerely,



Paul Massey
President, Regenerations Botanical Garden

From: [Christine Dorrepaal](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB261 - GoFarm Hawaii Program
Date: Wednesday, February 6, 2019 10:00:01 PM

February 6, 2019

SUBJECT: Support for SB261 – GoFarm Hawaii Program (Date/Time of Hearing: 2/8/19 at 2:30pm)

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, & members of the committees,

As graduates of GoFarm Hawaii Beginning Farmer Training Program, my husband and myself would like to extend our strong support for SB261, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program. We recently purchased 5 acres of agricultural land in Waialua, and are using the skills, business support, and connections we gained in Hawaii's agricultural networks to get our own farm business started. Most recently we have planted over 100 fruit trees, and have 4 beehives on our property. Future plans include growing diversified vegetables, flowers, and expanding our orchard and getting more bees.

The GoFarm Hawaii program is a needed and valuable program for the state of Hawaii. Their ongoing support, educational opportunities, and network continues to provide a valuable support system for our farm.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support of this Bill.

Sincerely,

Christine Dorrepaal and Christopher Lum
Kaiona Farms Waialua

From: [Christy](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB261 – GoFarm Hawaii Program (Date/Time of Hearing: 2/8/19 at 2:30pm)
Date: Wednesday, February 6, 2019 3:43:59 PM

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, & members of the committees,

Please recognize my strong support for SB 261, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program. I tried to submit testimony from the online website, but it timed out on me, so I'm not sure if it received my testimony. I currently have my very own farm business, Tiny 'Aina Farm because of GoFarm Hawaii. In a state where land prices are impossibly high for a farmer to ever pay back the mortgage, GoFarm created a means and a network to for access to land in order to grow. I have been able to produce local, sustainably grown food for my community, and we need more of it in order for Hawaii to get closer to food security. It's difficult enough to start a business, let alone a farm business, and GoFarm created a path and incredible support and education to help me and other farmers begin. It has also continued to support me after I graduated the program.

The GoFarm Hawaii program is a needed and valuable program for the state of Hawaii. Their ongoing support, educational opportunities, and network continues to provide a valuable support system for my career.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support of this Bill.

Sincerely,

Christy Tao

Tiny Aina Farm

SB-261

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 6:03:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Augusto Decastro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, & members of the committees,

Please recognize my strong support for SB 261, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program. As a graduate of the program, I not only learned hands-on production and marketing skills, I am realizing my business goals and I am now part of a network that can support my future in the agricultural industry.

The GoFarm Hawaii program is a needed and valuable program for the state of Hawaii. Their ongoing support, educational opportunities, and network is essential to move Hawaii to become less dependent on agricultural imports.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support of this Bill.

SB-261

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 3:58:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jari S.K. Sugano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 4, 2019

SB 261: GoFarm Hawaii; Food Sustainability; New Farmer Training and Business Support;

Chairs Gabbard and Mercado-Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani and members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment and Higher Education Committees, thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in **strong support of SB261** relating to the GoFarm Hawaii Program at the University of Hawaii, at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

To meet the Governor's Sustainable Hawaii Initiative goal of doubling the food supply in Hawaii by 2020, Cooperative Extension, the outreach component of the University of Hawaii at Manoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources needs more resources to support programs such as GoFarm Hawaii to distribute science-based information responsibly to commercial sustainable, conventional and organic farming stakeholders.

- Agriculture in Hawaii that was once dominated by the sugar and pineapple industry has shifted towards a diversified agricultural system.
- Small acreage and family owned farms now account for majority of Hawaii's agriculture industry across the state.
- According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, eighty-eight percent of farms in Hawaii are less than 50 acres in size, but only account for ten percent of the industry's sales.
- Increased food self-sufficiency and security is a priority for our program, as well as our state, as we live in an island state which relies on 85-90% of imports as its primary food source (State of Hawaii, Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism, 2012).

A change in Hawaii's agriculture industry has prompted a surge in request for new and beginning farming programs that provides hands-on education in areas such as in sustainable and organic farming practices, farm productivity, agricultural marketing, pest management, crop nutrition, resistance management, risk management, pesticide education, food safety and environmental stewardship.

I believe that bill SB 261 has much merit. Ongoing funding to support CTAHR's GoFarm Hawaii Program is crucial to the sustainability of Hawaii's diversified agriculture. Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for SB 2075.

I strongly support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget. Let me state from the onset of this testimony that, as a member of the faculty at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, it is important to note that support the prioritization process that the administration utilizes to establish their annual budgetary request to the legislature and can only advocate for additional funding of university programs if it does not negatively impact existing requests that are included in the executive budget.

Jari Sugano, Personal testimony

SB-261

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 11:59:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Lawmakers,

I strongly support SB26. My daughter and her fiance are currently enrolled and are learning how to farm organically as well as understanding the Business behind being successful. They produced an amazing array of healthy, just picked veggies and flowers through a CSA program last summer.

It's a wonderful and important program for all people interested in farming in Hawai'i. They are learning what they need to be successful. This is how food sovereignty will become a reality.

Please support this and all educational programs related to small scale organic farming and sustainability.

Mahalo,

Ms. Barbara Barry

Ha'iku

SB-261

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 3:35:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christy Tao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-261

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 3:40:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyn McNutt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is potentially a very important bill for supporting agricultural training and education in Hawaii. The GoFarm Hawaii program has been a huge success, and provides a great way to get new farmers trained and into the field growing food to make Hawaii sustainable and to protect against food shortages. Steady funding for an excellent program like this is definitely of benefit to Hawaiians in the the long term and satisfies State Constitutional requirements to support sustainable agriculture that actually grow FOOD for local consumption and not seeds for export.

SB-261

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 4:32:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valerie Neilson	Testifying for Aina Ho'okupu O Kilauea	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, and Members of the committees,

'Aina Ho'okupu O Kilauea is a community farm located in Kilauea Kauai. Our CEO and President has been actively pursuing solutions to increase local food production while also finding other viable crops to grow on the 75 acres we have to develop. We need knowledgeable, dedicated, skilled, and experienced people. People who have the desire and dedication but may not know how to get into agriculture. GoFarm Hawaii offers an experiential learning opportunity and sets a solid foundation for those wanting to pursue the agriculture path. As an organization we value GoFarm graduates because we know they have a realistic farming experience that can be applied immediately! They have access to tremendous resources and ongoing research that help them find real farm solutions.

We are in support of SB261, for these reasons! We want GoFarm Hawaii to continue!

Sincerely,

"Aina Ho'okupu O Kilauea

Valerie M Neilson

SB-261

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 7:24:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
elizabeth hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators:

As a developing family farmer, I strongly support this bill, because I am familiar with the benefits of the Go Farm Program. It is essential for farming in Hawaii to develop successfully that we have the in-depth education / hands-on training that Go Farm Hawaii provides. Please join me in supporting this bill. Your consideration is most appreciate.

Elizabeth Hansen

Farmer in Hakalau HI, 96710

SB-261

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 7:50:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators:

Aloha Senators:

I live and work on a small farm which I own in Hakalau, Hawaii County. I strongly support this bill, because I have known other farmers who have benefited benefited from being in the Go Farm Program. It is essential for farming in Hawaii to develop successfully that we have the in-depth education / hands-on training that Go Farm Hawaii provides. I hope you will support this bill and thank you in advance for your assistance.

Rodger Hansen, Hakalau HI, 96710

SB-261

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 8:32:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jean Brokish	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GoFarm Hawaii is an innovative and effective training program. As an individual working in agriculture I see tremendous value in the form of new farmers growing food ... in other words it creates real-world results important to the people of Hawaii. I urge you to invest in its future.

SB-261

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 10:12:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leonard J. Vierra	Testifying for East Kauai Soil & Water Conservation District	Support	No

Comments:

SB-261

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 10:21:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justin Pequeno	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 7, 2019

Subject: Support for SB261

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, & members of the committees,

Please recognize my strong support for SB 261, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program. As a recent graduate of the program, I was blessed with the opportunity to learn what it takes to start and operate a farm in Hawaii, as well as the realities facing the industry. It is my honest belief that GoFarm is the only program in the state that provides the experience necessary to have a shot at success in agriculture. If the State of Hawaii is serious about increasing local production and ensuring that current operations have successors, we need to support and expand GoFarm Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support of this Bill.

Aloha,

Justin Pequeño

SB-261

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 10:53:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie A Whalen	Testifying for HARC	Support	No

Comments:

A program showing success to increase the number of people wanting to farm.
Definitely needs support but also needs land for its graduates to move onto and practice what they have learned.

Personal Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
and
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Friday, February 8, 2019
by
Charles Kinoshita

Support for SB 261, Relating to Agriculture

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Mercado Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, and members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and the Environment, and Higher Education:

My name is Charles Kinoshita, and I am presenting testimony in support of SB 261, which calls for the appropriation of funds to support the GoFarm Hawaii Program. I am a professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, but please understand that this is not official University of Hawaii testimony; rather, I am presenting this testimony as a private citizen.

Many years ago, prior to joining the University of Hawaii, I was employed by the Experiment Station of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association (HSPA). When I first joined HSPA, sugarcane was being cultivated on more than 200 thousand acres, spanning four Hawaiian islands. Today, no cane is being grown in Hawaii for the manufacture of refined sugar.

Although sugarcane has disappeared in Hawaii, the majority of the lands that supported cane, though now fallow, still are zoned agricultural and remain highly productive. These lands can be brought back into commercial agriculture to create the green landscape that is important to the health of our environment and our visitor industry, and to support our local economy and food security, if new farmers are able to farm those lands profitably. In order to increase the number of growers in Hawaii and ensure their success, we need to provide aspiring farmers with the knowledge to grow diversified crops better and to operate their agribusinesses more profitably.

GoFarm Hawaii has assembled infrastructure and staff to grow new farmers on the four islands that have abandoned sugarcane. GoFarm Hawaii, which offers training in both crop production and business management, is, arguably, the largest and most successful new farmers training program in the nation. More than 100 trainees have graduated from the GoFarm Hawaii program in the last three years, and more than half of the graduates have started farm businesses or are supporting other agribusinesses in Hawaii.

Not surprisingly, to maintain that high level of success is very costly. GoFarm Hawaii has been very successful in competing for contracts and grants at the national, state, and local levels, and has garnered strong support from generous and committed partners in the private sector, government agencies, and philanthropic organizations, but additional funding, as called for in SB 261, is needed to continue GoFarm Hawaii's valuable training program.

I strongly urge you to support SB 261 and thereby help GoFarm Hawaii train our state's next generation of successful farmers and agripreneurs.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my views.

SB-261

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 1:53:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christina McKinnon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, & members of the committees,

Please recognize my strong support for SB 261, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program. As a student of the program, I am not only learning hands-on production and marketing skills, I am starting to think about my business goals and I am building a network that can support my future in the agricultural industry. During the program, I have been able to learn about farming, I am actively managing a plot of land, marketing and selling products and developing a business plan. After graduating, I plan to start a farm through the support of the AgIncubator program that GoFarm offers. The Ag-Incubator program will allow me access to land so that I can prove my ability to run a profitable small farm and use this track record to qualify for an agricultural loan to purchase land to farm on in the future.

The GoFarm Hawaii program is a needed and valuable program for the state of Hawaii. Their ongoing support, educational opportunities, and network is essential as I plan for my new business.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support of this Bill.

Sincerely,

Christina McKinnon

Manini Farms Hawaii

SB-261

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 2:14:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O'ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

SB-261

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 3:49:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha State Senators Gabbard and Ruderman and your committee members ~ I wish to strongly support SB261! It has become very apparent to us here on Kauai ~ WE need GoFarm program's training and mentoring and coaching ~ to enhance the ability of our farmers to succeed in this competitive environment and market. Please look favorably on funding the GoFarm program. Mahalo, laurie ho, Kalepa Ulu

SB-261

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 6:47:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Mulinix	Testifying for Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

SB-261

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 7:34:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-261

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 6:33:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jamie Barton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

From: [lucas.a.murillo](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Date: Thursday, February 7, 2019 8:05:28 AM

I am a GoFarm alumni of 2017 and now own my bussiness that is focused and oriented towards agriculture. Www.lifeandlandhawaii.com... The program jump started my career in agriculture by allowing me access to industry tools, education, and people. It connected me with a larger community that is now part of my ohana. We support each other in so many ways, I am asking the Senate committee to please support and endorse our beloved Hawaii GoFarm program! Mahalo

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

February 7, 2019

SUBJECT: Support for SB261 – GoFarm Hawaii Program (Date/Time of Hearing: 2/8/19 at 2:30pm)

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, & members of the committees,

Please recognize my strong support for SB 261, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program. I personally have not taken part in this program, but I work alongside Eric Hansen at Kaua'i Community College. Both Eric and I run farming programs on our campus and have collaborated on community projects together.

GoFarm has provided great opportunities for people who want to learn the ins and outs of farming. This program has been very successful and fulfilling to its participants. This is a necessary program for Hawai'i. As a farmer, I see the need for more programs such as this one to support a more sustainable Hawai'i. Having food that is grown here is important for our future and we need to encourage initiatives such as GoFarm.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support of this Bill.

Sincerely,

Joshua Fukino
Hawaiian Studies
Kaua'i Community College

From: [Raine Armstrong](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Measure SB 261; Date/Time of Hearing: 2/8/19 at 2:30pm
Date: Friday, February 8, 2019 9:18:54 AM

Measure SB 261; Date/Time of Hearing: 2/8/19 at 2:30pm

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, & members of the committees,

Please recognize my strong support for SB 261, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program. As a current student of the GoFarm Windward AgPro program, I recently started working for a local agricultural organization on Oahu. The skills I learned in the program helped me get my current position & has opened the door for many connections within the local agriculture industry. The program has supported my aspirations of farming & given me the encouragement to chase my dreams. They taught me production skills, provided business support, and gave me a network that allows me to be connected in the agricultural industry. Without a program like GoFarm Hawaii, I do not believe that I could have done this alone. I look forward to eventually working in the ag industry full-time, to continue my mission of building a more resilient & bountiful future here in Hawaii.

The GoFarm Hawaii program is a needed and valuable program for the state of Hawaii. Their ongoing support, educational opportunities, and network continues to provide a valuable support system for my career.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support of this Bill.

Sincerely,

Raine C. Armstrong

GoFarm AgPro Student / Farm Link Hawaii

SUBJECT: Support for SB261 – GoFarm Hawaii Program
Date/Time of Hearing: 2/8/19 at 2:30pm

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, & Members of the Committees,

Please recognize my strong support for SB 261, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program. Since graduating from the program in 2018, I started a Market Farming Program at the Women's Community Correction Center (WCCC), began working for the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC) and have expanded my program at Kailua Intermediate School as Garden Educator. The skills I learned in the program helped me get my current positions at WCCC and HARC. The program taught me production skills, provided business support and connected me to a network within the agricultural industry. I am currently working in the AG industry full-time, focusing on keiki education and intend to start my own farm in the near future.

The benefits of the GoFarm program are far reaching in our community. Educating our keiki is a key component to the success of agriculture in Hawaii. The GoFarm program provides the ongoing support, education and networking opportunities that are helping me to educate our keiki on the benefits of growing our own food and as well as advancing my career opportunities in the AG Industry.

Sincerely,

Wendy Rosen
Nui Na Lima Farm LLC
371 Ilimalia Loop
Kailua HI 96734

February 6, 2019

SUBJECT: Support for SB261 – GoFarm Hawaii Program (Date/Time of Hearing: 2/8/19 at 2:30pm)

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, & members of the committees,

Please recognize my strong support for SB 261, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program. Although I have not been privileged to take part in the program, I work at Kaua'i Community College, where the program is currently housed. I also work closely with Kaua'i's GoFarm coordinator, Eric Hansen. As someone who has seen the work that Eric and his students have done in their time here, I am amazed at what can be accomplished through this program.

Our small island of Kaua'i is always vulnerable to outside factors, and creating more farmers and making Kaua'i a sustainable island is invaluable. GoFarm is not just a great program; it's a *necessary* program. We need more opportunities such as this one to create a more sustainable Hawai'i, and one that supports small businesses and farmers. I know for myself and my 'ohana, we wholeheartedly support GoFarm and the wonderful things that this program does for our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support of this Bill.

me ka ha'aha'a,

Puali'ili'imaikalani Rossi-Fukino
Instructor of Hawaiian Studies
Kaua'i Community College

From: [Matthew McKinnon](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB261 – GoFarm Hawaii Program (Date/Time of Hearing: 2/8/19 at 2:30pm)
Date: Thursday, February 7, 2019 5:14:17 PM

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, & members of the committees,

Please recognize my strong support for SB 261, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program. As a student of the program, I am not only learning hands-on production and marketing skills, I am starting to think about my business goals and I am building a network that can support my future in the agricultural industry. During the program, I have not only been able to learn about farming, I am actively managing a plot of land, marketing and selling products, developing a business plan, and looking closely at the financial viability of specific crops and my business. After graduating, I plan to start a farm on my own land but intend to continue using the support services that the program offers.

The GoFarm Hawaii program is a needed and valuable program for the state of Hawaii. Their ongoing support, educational opportunities, and network is essential as I plan for my new business.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support of this Bill.

Sincerely,

Matthew McKinnon

GoFarm Student; Manini Farms

From: [Emily Cadiz](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB261 – GoFarm Hawaii Program (Date/Time of Hearing: 2/8/19 at 2:30pm)
Date: Thursday, February 7, 2019 10:09:47 AM

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, & members of the committees,

Please recognize my strong support for SB 261, which appropriates funds to the GoFarm Hawaii program. As a Program Director for Hui Maka‘ainana o Makana, we enjoy partnering with GoFarm for our community and youth programs in Ha‘ena, Kaua‘i because their mission and vision really align with ours.

In our non-profit we are primarily focused with lo‘i farming, so we understand the importance and need for more farming programs such as GoFarm. We also work with a lot of youth from our community and we are working to expose them to more farming careers, and GoFarm is a vital resource that we are working to streamline our youth through as they get older.

The GoFarm Hawai‘i program is a critical and valuable program for the state of Hawai‘i. Their ongoing support, educational opportunities, and network is essential to our communities in addressing food production and sustainability in Hawai‘i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support of this Bill.

Sincerely,

Emily A. Cadiz

Program Director, Hui Maka‘ainana o Makana

<https://www.huimakaainanaomakana.org/>

From: [Eric Hansen](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for Senate Bill (SB261)
Date: Thursday, February 7, 2019 7:38:55 AM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, & members of the committees,

I am writing in support of Senate SB261. For the past five years I have working hard on Kaua'i to move the Go Farm program forward . We have made tremendous strides creating new farmers here on the island but we still have a lot more work to be done. Every year we wonder if the program will be around the year after. If we are to move away from importing over 90% of our food we need to support Go Farm full time. I have worked hard to cultivate the next generation of farmers. Please I urge you to all support SB261.

Mahalo nui loa,
Eric Hansen

--

Go Farm Hawai'i
Kaua'i Program Coordinator/ Farm Coach
808-896-2793
kauai@gofarmhawaii.org
www.gofarmhawaii.org

From: [Janel Yamamoto](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony for SB 261; Date/Time of Hearing: 2/8/19 at 2:30pm
Date: Wednesday, February 6, 2019 4:28:47 PM

Forwarding on behalf of Paulo Peterson.

From: Paulo Peterson [mailto:pagem05@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 6, 2019 3:59 PM
To: janelnoy@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony from Summer Sky Farm

My name is Paulo Peterson, I was looking for something special to do, to benefits not just me and my family but for my community I joined GoFarm 2014 to 2018 I'm glad I did I learn everything about organic healthy soil, pest control, beneficial inserts, composting, and GoFarm also taught me everything to know how to run it as a business. Today I have a one acre at Kunia hope I will be able to help our Island with food security and food supply.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)